(ii) In respect of unregistered recruiting agents, the complaints are referred to concerned State Police Authorities/Protectors of Emigrants for investigation and action for violation of Section 10 of Emigration Act 1983 and other provisions of the law as appropriate.

(iii) In respect of complaint against the foreign employer (FE), FE is placed in the Prior Approval Category (Black list) and as a consequence is not allowed to recruit workers from India.

(iv) In case the stay of the Indian emigrant worker is declared illegal on account of various reasons, the Indian Missions take up the matter with the local authorities for either regularising their stay or their safe deportation back to India.

(v) In case deportation is required, this Ministry coordinates with the local Government through Indian Missions, the State Government authorities, Ministries of Home Affairs and External Affairs for ensuring their safe passage back to India.

(vi) Further in order to ensure the protection and welfare of Indian workers by the host countries, Government of India has entered into bilateral labour MoUs with UAE in December 2006, and with Kuwait in April 2007. An additional protocol with Qatar was signed in November 2007 to update the 1985 Agreement with that country. MoU with Malaysia has been finalised. Such MoUs with Bahrain, Oman and Yemen are underway. These MoUs and Agreements provide for a broad framework for co-operation in Labour and employment and also provide for Joint Working Groups of senior officers from both sides as an effective grievance redressal mechanism for better protection and welfare of overseas Indian workers.

Global warming

*373. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that if climatic trends continue unabated, global warming would threaten our health, our cities, our farms and forests, beache sand wetlands, and other natural habitats;

(b) if so, the impact on above segment likely to occur in India, sector-wise;

(c) whether, recently, Government accepted the fact of impact of global warming on agriculture and irregular rain;

(d) if so, the details and measures taken; and

(e) the programme Government has launched to create awareness on global warming?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The Government is aware of the likely impacts of global warming on various sectors. A preliminary assessment of impact and vulnerability due to projected climate change in key sectors such as water, agriculture, forestry, ecosystems, coastal zones, health, energy and infrastructure was undertaken at the time of preparation of India's Initial National Communication on Climate Change submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 2004. The projects climate change impact scenarios indicate increase in and variable trend of both rainfall and temperature into the 21st century, reduction in the quantity of suface run off across the various river basins, severity of droughts and intensity of floods in various parts of the country.

(c) and (d) According to India Meteorological Department, the monsoon rainfall at all India level does not show any trend but there are some regional patterns. This in turn would impact yields of crops. The process of climate change is slow and its effects on agriculture are projected to be apparent over several decades.

(e) Ministry of Enviroment & Forests has organized and funded many workshops/ conferences / seminars on the issue of climate change and brought out various publications. Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is organizing conferences/workshops for scientists to give more thrust on climate change research. Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) is regularly conducting fresher courses and training workshops on Climate Change.

Indians in foreign jails

*374. DR. ABHISHEK MANU SINGHVI:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government agrees that 6277 Indian citizen are languishing in foreign jails for travelling with false documents as revealed during deliberations in the recently concluded Pravasi Bhartiya Sammelan (January, 2008); and

(b) if so, whether any efforts are on the anvil to get them back to India especially from UAE; Singapore, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Malaysia etc. where their concentration is significant?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) As per available information, as of 29th November 2007, there were 5,197 Indian nationals imprisoned in foreign jails, some for travelling with false documents and others on other charges such as smuggling, burglary, robbery, drug trafficking, murder and sexual assault.

The Government of India, through its Missions and Posts abroad and in bilateral dealings with foreign Governments, makes every possible efforts to get Indian nationals in foreign jails released quickly and to provide necessary assistance. Such assistance includes seeking consular access to Indian detainees, requesting speedy trials, seeking remission of sentences, providing advice and guidance in legal and other matters, informing their families in India, ensuring fair and humane treatment in foreign jails and facilitating their repatriation to India on their release, including the provision of travel documents when these are not available.

New Forest Bill

*375. KUMARI NIRMALA DESHPANDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the States that have framed rules and regulations to implement the policy after the passing of the new Forest Bill, giving rights to the original forest dwellers;

(b) whether it is a fact that the tribals are being harassed when they try to take the possession of their land; and

(c) by when and in what manner the harassment of tribals would stop?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers